11654. 969 Saint Maloes

A

GENUINE NARRATIVE

OF THE

ENTERPRIZE

Againſt the

STORES and SHIPPING at St. MALOES,

From the Letters of a PERSON of Diſtinction in the SERVICE.

With the Particulars of the Intent of thoſe Preparations, which are deſtroyed; and of the Conduct of the Commander in Chief, and Behaviour of the Forces.

ALSO,

The Circumſtances of the Death of the unfortunate Marquis de Landal, Intendant de Cote, which have been variouſly and erroneouſly repreſented, &c.

DEDICATED TO

The Right Hon. WILLIAM PITT, Eſq;

That when with wond'ring Eyes our martial Bands
Shall view our Deeds, tranſcending our Commands;
Such may they cry deſerve ſuperior State,
Whom thoſe that envy dare not imitate. POPE.

LONDON:

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BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE

WILLIAM PITT.

Greateſt and Beſt of Miniſters,

A Perſon unknown to you, and whoſe ſtation will make him, probably, continue unknown, preſumes, with no authority but that of Britiſh free-

freedom, nor any recommendation but truth, and a love for his country, to lay at your feet the hiſtory of a late enterprize, of which he conceives, from its excellent purpoſes, that you have been the principal contriver; collected from the beſt authority he could obtain, and related with the moſt ſtrict regard to thoſe accounts.

He congratulates, great Sir, with you and with his country, that commanders were yet to be found

in

in Britain equal to the taſk; and that the ſpirit of the higher ranks, brought into action by your conduct, has, as in earlier days, urged them into the greateſt dangers; and ſhewn that they diſregard life when they can do their country ſervice.

That you may very long retain your preſent influence in the conduct of publick undertakings, and that all your purpoſes may be crowned with ſucceſs, is the prayer

of

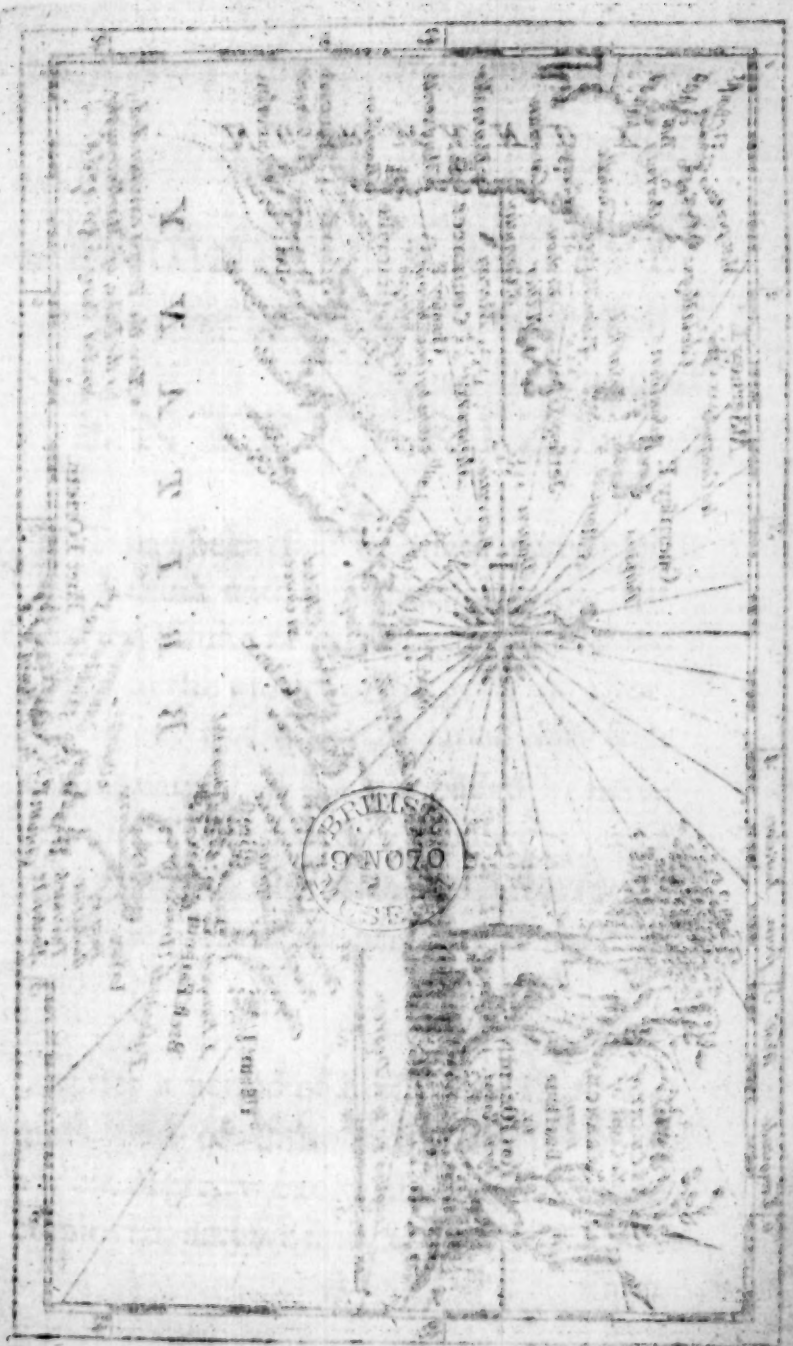
of every Engliſhman who loves his country, and of none more, or with more ſincere regard, than of him who is, with the greateſt deference and reſpect,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient

And moſt humble Servant,

The Compiler of this Account.


BRITISH
9 NOV 70

Longitude West from London
A Chart of the Coast of France, from Barfleur to Port l'Orient by G. Rollos
Leagues 20 to a Degree.
Alderney I.
les Casquets
Guernsey I.
Hangus
Samson
Sark I.
St. Martins
Jersey I.
Dauru
Barauie
Minguires
Coutances
Chansey I.
taken by Comr. Horn in July 1756
Granville
St. Malo
Dol
Pontorson
Bouillon
Marguerite
Blainville
Carentan
Roselle
Cherburg
Maupertuis
C. de la Hogue
Paternoster
Erehou
Hellier
St. Germain
Ekeron
Brebaut
St. Quay
Tanguir
St. Michel en Grave
Morlaix
Sept. I.
Guadra I.
Jussa I.
Ilion
St. Brieu
Guildo
Hangrote
Harves
Porsall
Tour R.
Conquet Road
Ushant I.
I. Banquet
Brest Harbour
Passage de l'Iroise
Brest
Plougastel
Audierne
La Raz
Bay of Audierne
Penmark
Mouton I.
Glenan I.
Quimper
Concarneau
St. Philibert
Poliqua Pt.
Port l'Orient
BRITANY
NORMANDY
*Here the Troops commanded by the Duke of Marlburough landed June 5 & 6. 1758.

A GENUINE NARRATIVE OF THE ENTERPRIZE.

IT has been ſaid in a late pamphlet, I think with a prophetick ſpirit, that the Duke of Marlborough is gone to repeat the glories of his great anceſtor, and renew the terrors France once felt at that name. What has paſſed hitherto very well verifies the prophecy; and there is not a Britiſh heart but expects as ſincerely as it wiſhes all that ſhould follow.

After a period of inactivity, I had almoſt ſaid of diſhonour, the ſpirit of our country now exerts itſelf, our arms are employed, and we find, and ſhall ſtill con-

tinue to find, that when France is the enemy, to fight is to conquer. We have ſeen the contrary boldly aſſerted; and a writer, now deſpiſed, was once popular for ſaying, that the Engliſh nation bred no longer that brave, free and publick-ſpirited people, which it had ſhewn in earlier times. But we ſee the error; the fault, if it were one, lay in the few who had the direction of our arms, not in the hands which ſhould wield them; and as ſoon as we are in earneſt ſent to act, we are ſucceſsfull.

'Tis is an unwarrantable boldneſs in private men to cenſure publick meaſures, or rather to inſult thoſe who direct them; but that is one of the wild ſhoots of the glorious tree of liberty. Things may be neceſſary which are otherwiſe not eligible; and it is ſo impoſſible for thoſe out of the ſecrets of government to judge properly of publick tranſactions, that the tame and diſadvantageous conduct we obſerved in the firſt years of the preſent

war,

war, might be as needful as the preſent active ſpirit is glorious. The miniſter whom men condemn, may have acted, for aught we know, as prudently as him whom we extoll; and the real difference may be, that the preſent had the good fortune to enter upon his great office in more favourable times.

However that be, one glory we are ſure he has, which no enemy, if ſo good and great a man can have an enemy, could take from him, that is, the praiſe of having made the beſt uſe of a more advantageous period: for there is nothing the Britiſh arm could execute which the preſent miniſter has not employed it to perform; nor any thing which he has not conducted with a ſecrecy unknown in England in late times, perhaps in any period. Our ſucceſſes have been beyond expectation; for they have ariſen from meaſures of which we never heard but from their accompliſhment; and there is no man now who doubts the

ſame ſucceſs upon the coaſt of France, as we have ſeen on that of Africa; for equal wiſdom has laid, and equal ſecrecy concealed the deſigns to the very hour of execution.

Next to ſuch a miniſter, the glory of a kingdom will depend upon the commander, who ſhall be appointed to execute his purpoſes; for the head will plan conqueſts in vain, if the hand be ſlow to act its purpoſes: in the preſent enterprize, upon which the eyes of Europe are fixed, we have full reaſon to be ſatisfied; and may expect every thing the great hope promiſes. The commander is of a rank and fortune above all influence; he has the glory of a great name to ſupport, and with the valour of a Briton he has ſhewn already, that he poſſeſſes in a high degree that generoſity of ſpirit, which diſtinguiſhes this nation more honourably even than its courage. Let us review the preſent incident.

The

The Duke of Marlborough landed his troops upon the coaſt of France, where it was in a manner defenceleſs, and where, if he had pleaſed, it would have been eaſy to have repeated the ſcenes tranſacted by that enemy once in the Palatinate, and of later time in Hanover. He might have carried fire and ſword thro' half a province. But the Britiſh ſpirit diſdains to tread upon thoſe who cannot reſiſt. It is enough to the brave to ſee an enemy in their power; and tho' the Duke of Marlborough could have done all this, and the violated laws of nature and of nations, violated by this enemy upon the ſubjects of his ſovereign, would perhaps, have juſtified the revenge, he had too much honour and too much humanity to take the leaſt advantage. The lives, nay even the property of the defenceleſs enemy were made ſacred: a ſtrict and exact diſcipline was obſerved, as if France had been the country of a friend or an ally; and the ſoldiers were taught the nature of their enterprize:

that

that they were ſent to burn and to deſtroy the ſhips, the ſtores, and armaments of France; and not to cut the throats of a few unoffending peaſants. The great ſpirit of our commander diſtinguiſhed the French nation from a few of its miſerable inhabitants; France was the enemy of Britain; and it was France he was to combat, not theſe, whom he conſidered, and whom he taught the ſoldiers to conſider, as the moſt wretched of human kind; deſerving, and demanding all their pity.

It has been the policy of France to repreſent to the common people the Engliſh as barbarians. They had heard this accouut of us: and when they ſaw a vaſt fleet approach them, and an army land; thoſe who could not eſcape prepared their throats for the knife; expecting no more mercy than their king had ſhewn. They were ſurprized; and they will remember for their lives, and

tell their children, that the Engliſh are the moſt generous of enemies.

All that was found practicable of the original deſign upon this place was done, to the infinite diſtreſs of the French as a nation, but without injury to any of her unreſiſting people. The enemy has received a blow not to be recovered within the compaſs of the preſent war; and it is with inexpreſſible pleaſure we learn from the moſt certain authority, that the troops re-imbarked, not to return, but to purſue the further objects of his majeſty's inſtructions.

If a private man may be permitted to indulge conjecture, it appears probable that the aſſaulting, at leaſt the bombarding of St. Malo's, was a part of the original deſign: but in all theſe inſtructions a reſerve is made relating to the circumſtances which may ariſe upon the ſpot, and which cannot be foreſeen at home. This was found impracticable, without more

more time than could be employed upon that ſingle object; nor was a town, which we could not have kept, an article of importance. The firſt deſign ſeems to have been this: and the fleet under our great commander, when he had ſeen the forces ſafely landed, placed itſelf off Breſt, to prevent any ſhips of war from ſailing thence to diſturb the operations.

As ſoon as the troops were landed, the light horſe, an excellent corps, and commanded by an officer born for the ſervice, were diſpatched to reconnoitre; and they found an opportunity of ſervice which could not have been expected. The enemy had drawn in their ſhips ſo near to ſhore that they might be fired from land; and they were laid ſo cloſe, that the firing of one could not but be the deſtruction of them all. The troops had their general orders, and they did not riſque this glorious opportunity by waiting for particular command; they did the ſervice. Every man held his torch

torch flaming before him, and there was lighted up a bonfire, ſuch as France had not ſeen of ſome ages, and which will be a tale for more. The troops, who had kindled the flames, ſtood to prevent any attempt to extinguiſh them, and the winds ſoon made that impoſſible. The commander in chief, inſtead of ſtaying to enquire into the circumſtances, ſent a body of infantry to ſupport thoſe who had done the noble miſchief; and then, with his accuſtomed calmneſs, gave orders for the other operations.

Theſe ſhips, which made the firſt great blow, were a mixed number drawn together into that certain ſcene of deſtruction under a notion of ſecurity: they conſiſted of frigates, privateers, merchant ſhips, and prizes: but beſide theſe, there were others on the ſtocks; and there were ſtores, and yards, crowded with innumerable preparations. Theſe made the ſecond object of the ſervice, and they were deſtroyed like the others; not a thread left remaining.

In the mean time the town, which was an object alſo, though of leſs conſequence, employed the general's attention. Nature has ſo diſpoſed the ground whereon it ſtands, that there is but one way in which it can be attacked; this is by a cauſeway; and this the garriſon, upon the appearance of our ſhips, cut away for a conſiderable ſpace, and let in the water. It was the great misfortune of this enterprize that the wind proved unfavourable, and our fleet was obliged to lie in ſight more than two days, before there was a poſſibility of landing: this gave them time to cut their cauſeway; and they were ſaved by it: but had the ſeas been favourable, we had ſucceeded in that part. For no ſuch precaution was in their thoughts before.

The French were ſo far from expecting us there, that but a few days before a very conſiderable force had marched out of the town, deſtined to ſome other ſervice; a force which might have incommoded our troops greatly in their

their landing. So well, in defiance of all their emiſſaries, was this ſecret kept; and ſo unprepared may we expect, and hope with reaſon that we ſhall find them elſewhere alſo.

Probably had the winds favoured the ready approach of our ſhips, the town of St. Maloes would have been added to the glories of this firſt deſcent. We learned for what ſervice the enormous ſcaling-ladders for this enterprize were intended; and St. Maloes, whoſe ſtrength and ſituation may make it laugh a ſiege to ſcorn, would have been taken by aſſault; *a coup de main* which would have ſtruck terror through the univerſal coaſt of France, and given new glory to the arms of England. We know the place is ſtrong; but we know alſo nothing is too hard for Engliſh valour. The ſtories of our loſs, founded upon the imagination of this aſſault, would perhaps have been verified; but we ſhould have been maſters of the place; as it is, we have our men, and,

if my good hopes do not ſtrangely miſlead me, they are reſerved for better ſervices.

The enterprize was fitted out under the adminiſtration of one who never omitted any thing that was neceſſary, and was ſent out with the requiſites for every kind and form of attack: and when the deſtruction of the cauſeway had cut off the poſſibility of an aſſault by eſcalade, the artillery was put in motion. Some of the ſmalleſt of the mortars were ſent forward, but it was found impracticable to bring them within the reach of ſervice. Our General, who would have combatted any enemies, was wiſer than to enter the liſts againſt nature. The king's inſtructions gave him many other objects; and having ſucceſsfully atchieved the great purpoſes at St. Maloes, he re-imbarked his troops to purſue the deſtined courſe of action. This was performed with the ſame order and regularity as the diſembarkation; and we have the pleaſure to know, that the troops are going forward for more ſervice, unhurt, in their original number,

within a man or two, and full of that ſpirit which ariſes from ſucceſs; and which preſages future conqueſt.

Nothing could be executed with more regularity or order than the diſembarkation. One afternoon landed a great part of the foot; and the ſucceeding morning the remainder of them, and the horſe, with the lighter part of the artillery. The diſcipline which was obſerved, was as much to the honour of the commander, and of our country. The people of Cancalle, a town of that name upon the bay, fled at the appearance of enemies, who had been repreſented to them as brutal; but they ſoon learned their error; and their accounts to the government were full of praiſe and wonder at the moderation of the Engliſh, whom they looked upon as enraged enemies, who had been repreſented to them as barbarians, and whom they ſaw in poſſeſſion of the place, yet behaving with more lenity, and more regard to private property than their natural governors.

ors. The ſoldiers were ordered not to diſturb any thing; and when a party of them had plundered a church, againſt the moſt ſtrict and abſolute orders of their officers, it was with equal aſtoniſhment and reverence the people ſaw the ringleader in this ſcandalous enterprize hanged up in their ſight; immediately, and upon the ſpot where the offence was done.

The ſoldiers, who had been told they went to deſtroy the armaments of the enemy, not to rob the innocent ſubjects, were taught by this example that obedience is the firſt virtue in their ſtation; and that ſacrilege was as much a crime in France as England. The people of the country learned, that it was better to be in the hands of ſuch enemies than of their own vice-tyrants: the news ſpread faſt; the name of the duke of Marlborough ran along the coaſt, and up the land, with the moſt extravagant applauſe; and, in conſequence of that, the troops whom he diſpatched up into the country, and who paſſed the night at Dol, were received

ceived with reſpect and honour: none fled from their habitations; the people furniſhed proviſions as readily and chearfully, perhaps more chearfully than they would have brought them to their own troops: and the march of this corps was as unmoleſted as their reſidence for the night. They could ſcarce believe themſelves in the country of an enemy; nor did the inhabitants conſider them as troops of a ſovereign at war with their country; but regarded them as men of honour, whom their duty had brought thither, and who would conduct themſelves as ſuch, on all other occaſions.

In our kingdom, divided into parties for intereſt, under the name of opinion, the beſt meaſures will be occaſionally condemned, and the worſt applauded: not from an error in their judgments who paſs this abſurd ſentence, but from the enmity they bear the authors of thoſe undertakings which they condemn; and

their

their blind partiality to thoſe who can promote their intereſt.

Even this expedition, wiſe as it has been in the deſign, prudent and regular in the conduct, and hitherto ſucceſsful in the execution, cannot eſcape the rage of artful tongues; for we have reaſon to expect abuſe from more than one quarter. Thoſe who did not propoſe it, will ſnatch at every opportunity to ſpeak of it amiſs; becauſe they did not; and becauſe he did, whoſe name they hate, and whoſe glories they underſtand as their own diſhonour. But beſides theſe, there are another ſet of mouths which will be naturally open: thoſe who had the command of a late Expedition; in which it muſt not be ſaid that we had no ſucceſs, but that we did not try to have any. Every article of advantage in this enterprize, they will look upon a reproach to themſelves; and they will therefore try all arts that may depreciate it.

Why ſhould we ſay they will? they have.—More than a hundred veſſels of the enemy, which theſe troops have deſtroyed, are called a parcel of poor fiſhing boats; and this important article of the ſervice is repreſented as the work of a drunken huſſar. They might have done the ſame at Rochefort; and if no other means could be effectual, 'tis pity they had not alſo ſome drunken huſſar there.

Would they be told, (indeed they need not, for they knew it already) but would they have the publick told, what theſe ſhips and ſtores really where, which the forces under the Duke of Marlborough landed and deſtroyed? and for what ſervice they were deſtined? We will inform them.

The people of St. Maloes, who are the richeſt of any provincial town in France, and have been principally enriched by Britiſh plunder, propoſed lately to their ſovereign to fit out an armament

at their own expence, with which they could take from the Engliſh, the two iſlands of Jerſey and Guernſey. The government of France accepted the propoſal: the miniſtry ſpirited them up to be earneſt and reſolute in the undertaking; and the ſhips and ſtores were getting ready with all expedition.

Of this the watchful Engliſh miniſter had intelligence: it was, before, a part of the deſtined operations of the year, to alarm the French by deſcents along their coaſts; and St. Maloes was now made the firſt object of their deſtination.

They arrived, they landed, they ſucceeded. The town itſelf was not of importance enough to anſwer the delay it would have coſt to take it; but the ſhips, ſtores, and preparations, which were to have made this attempt upon our iſlands, are aſhes.

Theſe were the fiſhing boats the troops in the preſent expedition have deſtroyed;

and

and this action, which has been called an accidental blow, was really the very end and purpoſe of the deſcent, which the miniſter who plan'd, had the diſcretion to conceal, till it was executed; even from them.

St. Maloes was too ſtrong to be attacked by any other meaſures than thoſe of a regular ſiege; and this would have delayed much more important purpoſes. It was not the buſineſs of ſuch a force, and at ſuch a time, to waſte the ſeaſon in the regular attacks upon a ſingle town: for they had greater objects. If St. Maloes could have been carried by aſſault, it would have added to the glory of the preſent enterprize, and to the national damage, as well as diſgrace of the enemy: and the commander of the Engliſh force therefore examined carefully whether it could or not.

For this purpoſe, when the troops had refreſhed themſelves one day in a

camp near Cancalle, the Duke led them towards St. Maloes, except one regiment left in the camp; and took up his head-quarters at St. Savan, a village near that town. It was from this place the corps was ſent, who deſtroyed the ſtore-houſes, the cordage, implements, hemp and flax, and levelled the works of their great rope walk. From hence alſo a juſt ſurvey could be taken of the place; its ſtrength was ſeen, and the impracticability of an aſſault. Had not the croſs winds given the garriſon a ſight of our ſhips in time for cutting their cauſeway, this might have been done; but the chance of things had taken away that proſpect. However, the eſſential buſineſs was performed: of all the ſtores and implements, nothing is left; and of the ſhips, which in the whole amounted to conſiderably more than a hundred ſail, only one eſcaped, like the miſerable meſſenger of Job's troubles, to tell the news. This was a privateer, the Captain of which had ſeen the folly of the general conduct,

conduct, and, foreſeeing its conſequences, had kept himſelf a-float.

Six days the Engliſh forces remained on ſhore, in which time the noble conduct of the Duke of Marlborough, ſet an example becoming an Engliſh officer to give the world, and which it will become commanders of all nations to imitate. The troops, who were not ſent out from their country in the deſperate circumſtances of robbers or of beggars, obſerved ſtrict diſcipline, and did no private damage; they paid for every thing they had, and enriched rather than injured the miſerable people. In the midſt of the operations of war, he conſidered that the ſubjects of his country's enemy were men; and if there be men, who in preference to all others, have a claim to compaſſion, they are the lower ſubjects of a French government.

This nation owes the Duke of Marlborough everlaſting honour, not only for the ſervice,

ſervice, which he has on this occaſion done againſt the enemy, but for the manner of his doing it: by which his Grace has eſtabliſhed our diſputed character (of late diſputed, not from our actions, but the repreſentations of ſome of our degenerate and unnatural countrymen) upon its antient honourable foundation. He has ſhewn France, that another Duke of Marlborough is like the firſt, and that the Engliſh ſtill are the ſame they were when he commanded them.

Let us call up before the impartial eye, the conduct of the French in their late enterprizes, and ſet it in compariſon; let us not offend the ear of humanity by the ſavage war in America: it will be enough to mention Hanover. They have the ſcandal of diſgracing war by robbery and butchery; we have the glory to ennoble conqueſt by compaſſion. I will not ſay we are improved, for the Engliſh have before ſhewn themſelves, ſuch as no future period could excell: but the French are certainly degenerate,

and

and with the loſs of courage they have adopted cruelty; a natural, but moſt diſgraceful change.

It has been that one incident ſeems to contradict this general humane and honourable character of the Engliſh, eſtabliſhed by the preſent enterprize. It is the death of the Marquis of Landal, intendant of the coaſt: a man whom we muſt at once honour and condemn, and with the ſame breath blame and pity. His bravery and ſpirit would be a glory to his country, but that his raſh and obſtinate reſiſtance to a force which it was impoſſible for him to oppoſe, obſcure the trophy. However, as his very errors were the effects of virtue, 'tis fit we do him honour; and, tho' an enemy, afford him our compaſſion.

The circumſtances of this nobleman's fall have been variouſly related; and we are happy that we can aſſure the publick, they are to anſwer for the ſeeming cloud

cloud it drew acroſs our glory, who have been guilty of miſrepreſenting the circumſtances. We are favoured with the whole ſtory in a letter from a perſon of condition, and ſhall not doubt his pardoning us, that we give it entire to the publick.

* * * *,

I doubt not but you have heard with concern, the death of the unfortunate Marquis of Landal. I aſſure you we lament it: for tho' there was ſomething extravagant in his behaviour, the principles were thoſe of honour. This unfortunate nobleman had a country ſeat near the town of Cancalle, where the troops landed; and it could by no means be allowed, that any place ſhould remain in a ſtate and poſture of defence ſo near the camp. A party of ſoldiers, with an officer, were ſent to ſummon him to ſurrender his houſe and arms: and he refuſed. As idle as an oppoſition from three or four people muſt be againſt a regular force, he

he made it in all form. He ordered his gates to be ſhut, armed himſelf and his few domeſticks, and anſwered from within, that "tho' his ſtrength was not enough for any uſeful oppoſition, his duty did not permit him to give up his arms to the enemies of his country; whom he defy'd." As he delivered this anſwer, he diſcharged his piſtol; and our people returning the fire, he fell.

I was not upon that poſt of the ſervice, therefore you will pleaſe to receive this as the account that has been given of it, not upon my poſitive authority: there are other ways of telling the ſtory, and other circumſtances annexed to it, but I believe this was the fact: however, the circumſtances are all of much the ſame nature, and which ever of the particulars are true, 'tis certain he fell by his obſtinacy, and was a ſacrifice to his romantick notions of honour. You will pardon my uncertainty, for we write in ſome

 confuſion;

confuſion; the next opportunity I will ſend the exact detail. * * * * *

The noble behaviour of the duke of Marlborough throughout this enterprize, muſt ſhew how very much he would have been above deſiring the death of a raſh man; who indeed would have done us more honour as a priſoner than by his fall: but neither can an officer of ſpirit bear inſolence in an enemy, nor is it eaſy to reſtrain men from firing when an enemy fires upon them.

When we review the circumſtances of this whole tranſaction, after good conduct, and perſonal courage, the next diſtinguiſhing character of the officers in command, appears to have been generoſity of ſpirit. No enemy was hurt, unleſs in the heat of reſiſtance; nor any injury done, but what immediately related to the ſervice.

The

The town of St. Servan is large, and of ſome importance; it was in our power to reduce it to aſhes; but, far from indulging that brutal and unavailing ſpirit of deſtruction, which theſe (our boaſted polite and humane) enemies have ſhewn on many inſtances, care was taken to preſerve it from the flames, which might have ſpread into it from the rope-yards, and other works if fired at random. It would have anſwered no purpoſe to England to have deſtroyed that town; and we have ſhewn certainly the ſpirit of generous, though determined enemies, in ſparing this place, while we did not leave a thread, or ſtraw, that could be uſeful in their future ſtores for war.

We have in this relation endeavoured, ſo far as ſuch weak efforts may avail, to do that juſtice, which is ſo amply due to the commander in chief, for the greateſt virtues of that high office, conduct and generoſity of ſpirit: There remain yet the higheſt tributes of praiſe upon a

more popular theme, his perſonal courage; a praiſe, which every man in the ſervice ſeems to have aimed to merit, after his great example.

Perhaps it is not generally known, that the duke of Marlborough in perſon went in a ſmall veſſel to examine the landing-places in the bay, in the face of the battery which was erected to defend the ſhore, and upon the inſtant of the fleet's arrival: while the French, if they had any ſpirit, were in the full poſſeſſion of it; and before any hoſtility had been acted on either ſide.

The ſervice was eſſential in the higheſt degree; and the eye of the commander in chief could no where be more important. The hero of the age, the king of Pruſſia, always reconnoitres the ground in perſon; and though none diſpute the great advantage of that article in his conduct, many have ſaid it is expoſing his perſon too far. This conduct of the

duke

duke of Marlborough is of the ſame ſtamp and character; and it is difficult to decide whether the hazard of a general's perſon be not in all breaſts, except his own, balanced equally againſt the certain advantage of the action. It is certain, that while an enemy is cool and undiſturbed, and all is clear about them, their ſhot are the moſt likely to take place.

In naval engagements we too often looſe our officers, and it is generally by the firſt fire. After that, all is more at random; the ſmoke obſcures the air; no aim can poſſibly be taken; and the confuſion of the action prevents half the effect of the artillery.

The enemy ſeemed aware of the advantage that was offered them in this inſtance: they knew the Engliſh ſpirit well enough to conclude, that ſome of the higheſt rank were in the firſt veſſel which approached their coaſts: and they attempted to diſconcert our meaſures by one

one lucky blow. They aimed ſome cannon-ſhot at the ſmall veſſel in which the duke was, from the battery on ſhore; and they had no deſpicable engineers: But heaven reſerves this great and generous man, we hope, for greater ſervices. The veſſel continued its purpoſed courſe: the place was fixed upon where the troops could be beſt diſembarked; and it was ſo well choſen, that it would not be eaſy to name an inſtance, wherein a difficult and naturally tedious ſervice has been ſo regularly, expeditiouſly, and eaſily performed.

It is plain the enemy had not expected us in this place; for they had left the cattle on the neighbouring fields; but they were not deſtitute of power to have oppoſed, at leaſt to have incommoded our troops in the landing: for we ſaw forces upon the adjacent high grounds; and the number was not inconſiderable with which they reinforced the garriſon of St. Maloes immediately after. Theſe could not have been at a great diſtance

when

when the troops diſembarked; and they might have been ſpirited up to an oppoſition by the people of the place, and by the expectation of that large force which, very ſoon after our landing, marched for the ſervice.

However this was to have been expected, nothing of it happened. The unhappy raſh nobleman, we have mentioned, ſeems to have been the only Frenchman upon the coaſt who entertained any thought of oppoſition; and it was eaſy to ſee that all the diſturbance our troops could expect in landing, was from a battery cloſe by the village of Cancalle.

Commodore Howe, an officer from whom this nation has received, and doutleſs will receive, the greateſt ſervices, threw himſelf into a ſmall veſſel, (the Succeſs) and, hoiſting his broad pendant, ordered her to be run a-ground as near the battery as poſſible, and then poured in

in her fire to ſilence it. The damage this battery could have done our troops in diſembarking, would have been very conſiderable; and they prepared for diſputing it in earneſt with the ſhips which came to deſtroy it. They ſoon knew the colours of the Commodore, whoſe name AIX had rendered terrible to them; and they began their fire as the veſſel approached, and continued it with great readineſs for a conſiderable time.

Commodore Howe ordered no gun to be fired from the ſhip, to obſtruct or diſturb his courſe; but when he was a-ground, the French ſoon ſaw that the former ſcene was to be played over with them. They killed ſome men on board the Succeſs, but they were in a few hours ſilenced, and the village cleared by the Rye and the Roſe, the Flamborough and Diligence, which came up ſoon after; and, like the Commodore, ran themſelves a-ground before the battery.

The

The boats were ſoon got out; the frigates ordered to cover the boats in landing, and the only battery that could have been troubleſome to them, being thus kept in play, till it was finally ſilenced by Commodore Howe, the firſt body of the troops were landed ſafely under the command of Lord George Sackville and Colonel Dury; and the reſt ſoon after.

The few men loſt on this occaſion, were thoſe in the Succeſs, which the Commodore had laid againſt the battery; and doubtleſs every life of theirs ſaved many. The artillery of the enemy, which were four-and-twenty and twelve pounders, would have done much more execution on the boats crowded with men.

Every article in the conduct and execution of this enterprize, does honour to the commanders, and promiſes us more and more advantage. Their earneſtneſs

in the ſervice, and the free ſpirit with which they expoſed themſelves, where not immediately called upon, to the worſt dangers, muſt make the private men bluſh at the thought of fear. Indeed there is no cauſe to think they wanted this example: for the ſoldiery of England have always ſhewn themſelves ready for the worſt ſervices; but tho' not neceſſary, it was doubtleſs, and will be, highly uſeful. When the common ſoldier ſees his officer expoſe himſelf, not from his duty only, but from choice, to the moſt hazardous part of the ſervice, he will ſee in its moſt amiable light, that love of a man's country, which is the great ſource of glory; and he will breathe the ſame fire.

Theſe are not reaſonings only, but we ſee the proof: they are not the mere viſions of a philoſopher in his cloſet, they have been confirmed in the field. The Duke of Marlborough was under no neceſſity to be the firſt man who ſet himſelf

himſelf as a mark for the enemy's artillery; nor was it neceſſary that Commodore Howe ſhould put himſelf on board the ſmall ſhip that was to lie againſt the battery: they did it, becauſe they knew the importance of the ſervice; and knew the force and prevalence of example among a body of forces, many of whom had not been uſed to action.

We ſee the conſequence: every article of the ſervice was performed in the moſt ſucceſsful manner; and the ſoldiers, fired with the glorious ſpirit of their leaders, received, with ſhouts of joy, their orders for the moſt deſperate ſervice, in which men could be employed.

When the troops took poſſeſſion of the little town of Cançalle, there was an appearance of ſome oppoſition; a ſteep hill riſes behind the place; and on the top of it appeared ſome troops, who

poured down from that distant eminence, an ineffectual fire.

A body of the infantry was ordered to attack them, and with these directions: They were to march up briskly; to receive their fire, without returning a shot; and when they came within a hundred paces, they were to run in upon them with their bayonets.

All know this is the most certain method of attack, if men can be brought to it: and ours, on this occasion, far from the thoughts of flinching at the service, received the orders with a huzza. The sound frighted away the enemies they were to have attacked. They saw no more of them.

This is an instance, and a striking one, of the power of example from superiors; of the spirit it gives the common soldiery, and the effects of that spirit on an enemy.

If

If examples were ever needed, they muſt have been ſo now, after a period of tame inaction; and if there ever were examples that could animate a ſoldiery, ours upon the preſent enterprize have them: The Duke of Marlborough not only expoſing himſelf, but taking with him his ſon, the heir of all his honours, and his virtues; and the firſt men of the kingdom for ſpirit and honour, going as volunteers, and courting every danger. The name of Lord Downe, was always reſpected; but it will be reverenced now; and if common reports may be credited, the very practiſe of wagers, which uſed to be conſidered as a reproach to our nobility, having been on this occaſion made a glorious incentive to emulation. 'Tis ſaid, a nobleman and a great commoner, wager'd a thouſand guineas, which ſhould be firſt upon French ground: and every account agrees, that they have both diſtinguiſhed themſelves in every article of ſervice.

We

We will forgive the Engliſh youth the wildeſt of their ſallies in times of peace, if the ſame ſpirit urges them to theſe glorious and earneſt ſervices in war. They remind us of the Henry's of old time, who were gay, diſſolute, and wild, while public ſervice did not call upon them; but who, when they were wanted in the capacity of Sovereigns and of ſoldiers, threw off the maſk of diſſipation, and became renown'd and glorious; ſway'd the ſceptre, and wielded the ſword, with a ſpirit that threw all praiſe behind them.

If we may preſage the future from the preſent, the ſame glorious and advantageous proſpect is now before us. France, inſolent in ſucceſs, will be as deeply humbled as ſhe was in the ſucceeding years of that great reign; and if there be truth in all the appearances which offer at preſent, we ſhall ſee that nation employing every European power to whom ſhe can find acceſs, to mediate with

Britain

Britain, to ſupport her in that ſuit which ſhe could not have the effrontery to propoſe in her proper words, and moderate the humiliating terms on which we ſhall have the compaſſion to allow her peace.

The importance of the preſent enterprize I ſuppoſe no man affects to doubt. There is no Britiſh ſubject who would not grieve at the diſhonour of loſing thoſe iſlands, againſt which the St. Maloe's force was deſtined; nor can we ſay where the French ſpirit of invaſions and deſcents might ſtop, if it had been allowed to take place there; and ſhould have been ſucceſsful. At preſent, the ſpirit of that nation is ſunk in ill fortune, and depreſſed by repeated loſſes. It is our buſineſs, certainly, to take advantage of that ſtate of the publick; and to compell an honourable and advantageous peace. We know, that the keeping Jerſey and Guernſey has been long a diſagreeable object to France, and has reflected diſgrace upon that nation in the eyes of Europe:

Europe: and ſhould we, at a time like this, when they are ſunk to deſpair, and ourſelves riſing to our higheſt hopes, ſuffer them to give a turn to the courſe of fortune, by retaking them? could it be conceived that a miniſtry, ſuch as we at preſent honour, would be without intelligence of ſuch a project? or that, while they are weak, and ourſelves ſtrong; while they are exhauſted, and we rich; while they have demands for all their forces out of their own kingdom, and we are full of force, maſters of the ſea by the moſt powerful fleet ever poſſeſſed by any nation under heaven, and while we have in pay an army, capable of any thing that human valour can atchieve, and a whole people longing for action; it could not be thought, that, under theſe conditions of ourſelves and of our enemies, ſuch an adminiſtration would overlook the preparations of a deſperate enemy, and ſuffer even the attempt of ſuch a project. There have, perhaps, been times when we muſt have looked on, and ſeen this; or there

may

may have been adminiſtrations that would have ſuffered it: but theſe are not ſuch periods, nor are ours ſuch miniſters. We have diſappointed this undertaking in the moſt honourable way, by deſtroying the very preparations for it; and we continue, with the ſame force that did this, to alarm their coaſt, to make the Engliſh name again terrible to them; and in a manner not thought of till this happy period, to proſecute this war, ſo diſtreſsful to the enemy, and ſo honourable to our country, with leſs abſolute expence than ever, and that expence all centred among ourſelves: what is iſſued from our open hands returning again into our boſoms.

Let the reader apprehend this juſtly: it is one of thoſe peculiar points which eſcape, perhaps, the unattentive eye, but which, in a moſt ſingular manner, characteriſe the adminiſtration of that great and good man, who knows how to adapt the means as well as the meaſures to the national ſervice.

In preceding wars it has been the policy of France conſtantly to threaten the foreign dominions of our ſovereign, in order to derive all our attention thither; that they might be able, unmoleſted, to purſue their projects in other places. The Britiſh people, full of the ſenſe of gratitude, and of love and veneration for a king, whom, when it ſhall pleaſe heaven (long hence we hope) to take from us, hiſtory ſhall call the beſt that ever reigned, have been accuſtomed to let their eager love in this caſe outrun their judgment, and, by applying their force and their attention immediately on that quarter, have acted as the enemy wiſhed, and left all elſe open to them. It would be too large a field, ſhould we enter upon the particulars: thoſe who have obſerved the hiſtory of the late wars, will make the applications for us.

The preſent policy has diſappointed France in this great object; and, by leaving the German dominions of our ſove-

ſovereign leſs defended, has, at the expence of a ſlight and temporary advantage, entailed upon this enemy laſting diſhonour, and a condition from which it will not be eaſy for her to riſe, but at our pleaſure. Theſe are the conſequences of his councils, who, ſeeing into future events, and weighing all together, has diſtreſſed, diſgraced, and humbled France, by allowing her a ſeeming advantage; and while ſhe poſſeſſed herſelf of Hanover, which he knew ſhe could not keep one ſeaſon, has diſmantled her in Aſia, Africa, and America, of her favourite eſtabliſhments, and is now redoubling her terrors and alarms by bringing the war to her own proper coaſts.

The common cauſe, in which the king of Pruſſia, (a hero whom all praiſe is too weak to reach) has ſtood the force and fury of almoſt all Europe, and now ſtands it with defiance, cannot but warm every Britiſh and every proteſtant heart. This way we have ſerved him and our-

ſelves, and all proteſtant Europe, in the moſt eſſential manner, and upon principles the moſt, that any can be, to the honour of our government.

While we have diſappointed the attempts of France upon our iſlands on their coaſt, we have ſpread an alarm along that vaſt extent, which muſt render it neceſſary for them to keep a force there, equal to ſixty, or perhaps eighty thouſand men. This makes a diverſion in favour of the German war, which will do the proteſtant powers, engaged againſt them, more ſervice than if we had ſent thither thirty thouſand men. We ſaw how inſolently they entered Hanover, an unoffending kingdom, and we have ſeen how ſhamefully they have been driven out of it; a retreat ſo throughly diſgraceful, that no hiſtory can ſhew its parallel. The army, before which they fled, has followed them acroſs the Rhine, (an event that muſt excite the admiration of poſterity) and their whole fate there reſts on a ſingle battle, in which they will be beat

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as ſurely as they fight it. In the ſame condition is the ungrateful Auſtrian: preſſed by the Pruſſian forces, till a battle is ſcarce poſſible to be avoided; and ruined, if that battle ſhould be loſt.

Thus does the preſent moment ſhew us a ſtate of things which human foreſight never could have believed; the two great houſes, Bourbon and Auſtria, who have been uſed ſingly to inſult, and who, but one year ſince, threatened together to give law to Europe, reduced to place all upon a ſingle loſing ſtake: in no condition to expect any thing but defeat, and both without reſources; the preſent armies they have in the field being all their hope.

To this condition of diſtreſs the Britiſh councils, let me ſpeak plainly, the ſpirit and the ſenſe of a true Britiſh ſubject has reduced them; and in this ſtate the ſame great ſpirit is purſuing them with unremitted diligence, weakning their force, on which their fate depends, by theſe diverſions;

diverſions; and this at an expence which, though it ſeems vaſt, is nothing to the advantage; and which, though continual, all centres in ourſelves.

Whenever we ſent troops into Flanders, the expence was all thrown away, for ever, from the kingdom; and what was worſe, it center'd in a great meaſure in the enemy's hands: in this equipment of a fleet, ſtrong and terrible as it is to them, and this embarkation of land force, to waſte their ſhores, all is expended among ourſelves; the ſhips were in commiſſion, the forces were in pay; the additional expence is a very ſmall part of the whole; and for the reſt, it is no more than employing, to the annoyance and diſtreſs of our enemies, the force which it was neceſſary for us to keep for our own ſecurity. What it has done we ſee, and the ſervice has been of the higheſt importance: what it will do farther, 'tis not impoſſible to gueſs; but let the event ſpeak. England

will

will be happy, when all her expeditions are conducted, like the late one on the coaſt of Africa, and this on France: when the people of Britain ſhall hear of the ſucceſs of enterprizes, of which they never were informed in the preparation, and when thoſe, which it is impoſſible to conceal in the ſetting out, yet ſhall be ſo ſecret in their deſtination, that no body ſhall be able to inform the enemy of what ourſelves do not know: and that in all other parts, where we make the attack, our ſoldiers ſhall find, as they did at Cancalle, the cattle feeding on the ſea ſide paſtures, and the people, (as ignorant of their danger as the cattle) deſerting their towns, which no forces are near to defend.

If the people of Britain could have dared, overwhelmed as they are with offences, to have lifted up their eyes to heaven, and prayed for better fortune; what their beſt wiſdom could have aſked, is juſt what they have found; a

King

King who regards them as his children; a Miniſter prudent to determine, and reſolute to put his ſchemes in action, a Commander who with that perſonal valour, which has long made the Britiſh name honoured thro' the world, unites the generoſity of ſpirit, without which courage is but brutal fury; a nobility ready to ſacrifice thoſe indulgences, which have been ſuppoſed their ſole delight, for the dangers of the hardeſt operations of war; a ſoldiery worthy to be commanded by ſuch leaders: and on the other part an enemy depreſſed, dejected and confounded in their councils, unable equally to penetrate into their deſigns and to oppoſe them. It will become us to return with praiſe what we did not aſk; and to render ourſelves leſs unworthy of its protection.

Perhaps 'tis leſs for our ſakes heaven has been pleaſed to give us this ſucceſs, than for the cauſe itſelf, in which, worthleſsas we are at preſent, we are engaged,

engaged, the intereſts of the proteſtant religion are in a manner united with our fate, and the fate of Pruſſia, and we may date from thence, the preſent almoſt miraculous ſucceſs.

The force with which this enterprize was undertaken all know: it may not be unpleaſing to the Britiſh reader, to receive an account of the particulars of the cauſe and deſcent, from a letter, the authenticity of which none can doubt.

'WE left St. Helen's the firſt of this month, and meeting with a 'wind not ſo favourable as we could 'have wiſhed, were forced thro' the 'Race of Alderney.

'The third day we were off Stark, 'with a gentle gale, where a tranſport, 'in the morning, ſtruck upon a rock, 'and was loſt: Part of the firſt batta-

'lion of the guards were on board her,
'who were all (together with their
'arms, proviſions, &c.) ſaved. Happy
'for them that this accident happened
'not in the night, or in ſuch a terrible
'wind, as we experienced the preced-
'ing day! Had that been the caſe, every
'ſoul muſt have inevitably periſhed.

'The fourth day we ſaw Cape
'Frehol, and St. Malo's, but the road
'being too dangerous for ſhips to ride,
'we ſailed the next morning to Can-
'calle Bay. The troops began to land;
'and the next day, which was the
'ſixth, they were all on ſhore and
'encamped.

'The country is very much incloſed,
'and the roads and paſſages the moſt
'difficult of any I ever beheld: The
'whole is a maſs of ſolid rock, with
'about eighteen inches of ſoil; yet ex-
tremely

'tremely fruitful, and abounding with 'the moſt delightful proſpects.

'The inhabitants of the country were 'in arms, and made ſome trifling op- 'poſition. What is very aſtoniſhing, 'there was that night the regiment of 'Boulonnois from St. Malo's, who 'took a diſtant view of the forces, and 'then retired. Had they diſputed our 'landing, it would have rendered it 'extremely hazardous; or had they af- 'terwards oppoſed our march, it would 'certainly have made it impracticable. 'Five hundred regulars may here main- 'tain themſelves ſecurely againſt almoſt 'any force that may be brought to op- 'poſe them.

'Notwithſtanding all theſe apparent 'difficulties, his Grace the Duke of 'Marlborough was determined to puſh 'forward; for which purpoſe leaving at 'Cancalle, a brigade under the com-

'mand of General Boſcawen, and a 'brigade of guards, at Fort Richieu (a 'dangerous paſs about a league diſtant) 'to ſecure his retreat, on the ſeventh he 'marched for St. Malo's, diſtant about 'three leagues, and having ſeized on 'the Heights Parame, encamped 'within view of the place. That very 'evening he made himſelf maſter of 'St. Servans, a village in extent like a 'city, and yet at the ſame time the 'moſt irregular and unteneable of any 'place whatever.

'By the reports given in, fourteen or 'fifteen thouſand men would not be 'ſufficient to maintain it.

'Here his Grace received informa-'tion, that a reinforcement had been 'thrown in at St. Malo's, and the next 'day received certain intelligence that 'there were four battalions in the place; 'and from St. Servans, they hourly

'ſaw

'saw additional troops coming from 'Dinan, and the country on the other 'side of the river; which could not 'possibly be prevented, so very exten-'sive are the environs of St. Malo's.

'There were besides of irregulars, 'out of the people of the country to 'the amount of nineteen or twenty 'thousand that had been called in.

'The villages were intirely deso-'late; all the cattle driven off; no 'manner of provisions to be had; and 'nothing to be seen but a few women 'and children.

'The place being by much too 'strong to be itself attacked, the Duke 'immediately took into consideration 'by what means he might fairly distress 'the enemy, by burning and destroy-'ing all kinds of military stores he 'could arrive at. The principal ob-

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'ject was their ſhipping, among which 'there were ſome of great conſe-'quence, that had greatly diſtreſſed 'our trade; all which were, by his 'command, entirely ruined. Near 'forty of them were burnt the very 'night we firſt encamped, and the two 'ſucceeding days many more were 'diſcovered and deſtroyed in ſight of 'the enemy, and within reach of their 'artillery, without any manner of loſs 'on our ſide. I cannot for certainty 'aſcertain the number. The loweſt 'computation I have heard is, that 'ſeventy three ſhips, and about ſeven-'teen ſloops are burnt: Their maga-'zines, ſtore-houſes, rope-yards, with 'the hemp, tar, and cordage, con-'tained in them, were likewiſe de-'ſtroyed; ſo that the trade of the 'place muſt be in a manner ruined.

'In the mean time colonel Brown 'was ſent with a detachment to Dole,

'where

'where he found a battalion of the 'enemy, and ſome troops of dragoons. 'He took ſome priſoners, who informed 'him that there was about ſeven thou-'ſand more at Granville, and that the 'camp at Cherburgh was in motion. 'This induced his Grace the duke of 'Marlborough to provide for his retreat 'maturely.'

'Such was the nature of our ſitua-'tion, ſo impaſſible the country, that 'ſhould the enemy, by any means, have 'forced the defile at Richieu, our retreat 'would be abſolutely cut off.

'Having therefore, with the greateſt 'diſpatch imaginable, executed every 'thing that it was prudent to attempt, 'and as the enemy would certainly be 'upon us before our heavy artillery 'could poſſibly be brought before the 'place; it was deemed proper to march 'back to Cancalle, and reſt ſatisfied with

'with the good fortune we had met 'with.

'This was performed with great ex-'pedition, without the leaſt loſs or mo-'leſtation; and indeed, through the 'whole operation, the diſpatch was even 'wonderful; and it will be hardly cre-'dible to any perſon acquainted with 'the ſituation of the place here, that 'ſuch a body of troops ſhould be on the 'fifth near cape Frehal, and, after fall-'ing down as low as Cancalle, ſhould, 'to a man, diſembark and encamp; 'then paſs the defiles, and appear early 'on the ſeventh before St. Maloes.

'This, though attended with many 'difficulties, was by dint of labour ef-'fected; but in the performance both 'men and officers underwent great hard-'ſhips.

'Monday the twelfth, the troops were 'all ſafely embarked without any moleſt-

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'ation, and part the preceding night. 'Three brigades, with the grenadiers, 'and the three battalions of guards, got 'on board that twelfth in the morning.

'Upon looking back, I cannot help 'thinking that there has been much 'done in a little time, and that of ſome 'conſequence.

'St. Maloes has ever been a neſt of 'pirates. Our trade has ſuffered more 'from them than from all the privateers 'beſides. This nuſance is now put a 'ſtop to; nor can their loſs be eaſily 'retrieved: the men of Guernſey have 'fitted out, ſince the commencement 'of the war, thirty-ſeven privateers, of 'which they have loſt thirty-three, moſt 'of them by their neighbours of St. 'Maloes.

'This will now no longer be the 'caſe; for the future our trade muſt be

 'greatly

'greatly ſecured by what has been done, 'and the trade of the enemy muſt ſuffer 'in proportion. Our privateers will now 'range without controul, and the fears 'of our merchants muſt conſequently 'be leſſened,

'One of the ſhips that was burnt was 'of fifty guns, two of thirty-ſix, and from 'thirty guns to ſixteen a very large num-'ber. I have been juſt informed, that, 'including the ſmall craft and ſloops, we 'have deſtroyed above a hundred.'

I am, *&c.*

The higheſt human fortune is not ſecure from accidents, and we have lately had the ill news, that the ſeaſons, the winds and ſeas, which did not favour our ready deſcent upon the coaſt at Cancalle, detain'd our forces from their farther enterprizes, but that delay is now over. Heaven, who has been pleaſed to favour us thus far, knows beſt, not only how much farther it

is

is our intereſt, or, what is much more important, the intereſt of the cauſe we ſhould ſucceed in the preſent ſcheme. While we applaud and honour our forces for their conduct, we muſt lament their late ſituation, detained by contrary winds, on board thoſe veſſels which were ſufficient only, for carrying them from place to place, but wanted room for convenience or even for health. We have received with ſo little gratitude, the late favours from heaven, that it ſhould ſeem we are to be taught by diſappointments, that duty to him who guides and governs all events, which we refuſe to learn from the moſt unmerited benefits.

Storms have toſſed our great fleet, and the letters of the commander ſpeak of ſome damage to the veſſels, and of the difficulty wherewith they were kept off the French ſhore. He trembles for our other hero, of whom he had not heard;

but we are ſo far happy, that we receive alſo intelligence from him, in which he expreſſes equal concern, and alarms on account of the other. Neither are yet hurt, tho' both have been in danger.

It is by this unanimity of officers, that the ſervice alone can be conducted proſperouſly; and we have cauſe to wiſh that it reigned every where; and that the miſchiefs of the winds were all. The ſickneſs of Sir Edward Hawke, the ſecond in command, and his return, are blows more deſperate than the fleet has felt from the ſtorms; or we hope will feel: but with the intelligence of theſe croſs accidents, we receive alſo confirmations of the continued conduct and honourable regard to the ſucceſs of the ſervice, in the higheſt in command, which firſt raiſed him to that rank; and for which his country reverenced him before.

The calmneſs with which Lord Anſon thinks of death and the abſolute diſregard

diſregard, in which he holds at his own concerns when in ſervice, have been ſhewn in that great and dangerous voyage, (as dangerous as it was glorious) which he continued round the globe: with all the calmneſs and unconcern, wherewith a man would make diſpoſitions regarding the moſt trivial things, he then delivered orders where thoſe ſhips which firſt got round the cape ſhould wait for him, and in what manner they ſhould continue the voyage, if he were loſt. This was an event much more likely than his ſafely, which yet he treated as an article of indifference, turning his thoughts wholly upon the conduct of the expedition, when the command ſhould devolve to another. In the ſame manner here his concern for the ſickneſs and his uneaſineſs at the abſence of the ſecond in command, turn on the ſame great point, the confuſion of the ſervice in caſe of his death; which, tho' another in his circumſtances would think he had

cauſe

cauſe to value life, he regards as an incident, that may any moment happen; yet conſiders his own part in it as nothing; and his country's ſervice all.

Theſe are the proper virtues of a leader, and when we ſee them ſo eminent as they appear at preſent, not in this inſtance ſingly, but in all who have the principal command: there is nothing we may not promiſe ourſelves from the expedition in its farther progreſs; a diſregard of death is the firſt of the high qualifications of an officer; and tho' often boaſted, it is not always found. We ſee it expreſſed much better than by words, in their conduct: and to our glory as a people, we ſee it not confined to thoſe in whom it is a duty, but ſpreading in a manner univerſally. If it be great glory in thoſe to deſpiſe death in the ſervice of their country, who have engaged themſelves to hazard their lives in her defence, it commands yet a higher epithet,

epithet, if words could reach ſuch excellence, when thoſe who have entered into no ſuch engagements do it voluntarily. The preſent enterprize has ſome ſuch, whoſe names ſome hand, more ſafe than mine from the ravages of time, will give to immortality.

The danger of ſickneſs, to which theſe gallant men, in common with the troops, have been ſubjected by their cloſe diſpoſition in the ſhips, is now over. They are free from danger; and, while we expreſſed our unavailing concern, were in their full courſe to their ſecond deſtination. Wherever they are now, or however employed, may he, in whoſe hands are the ſword and ſhield, the terror and ſecurity of war, for the great cauſe in which they ſerve, protect and proſper them.

FINIS.